



**STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT
OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS
IN
RUMFORD and LEWISTON**

**REGARDING
GULF ISLAND POND WATER QUALITY**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2004 5:00 p.m.
RUMFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2004 5:00 p.m.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS LEWISTON CITY HALL**

After years of water quality monitoring and working with paper mills, municipalities, and environmental advocacy groups, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection will host 2 public meetings (Dec 7th & 8th) on issues surrounding Gulf Island Pond. Gulf Island Pond, in Auburn, Lewiston and Greene, is an impoundment on the Androscoggin River. The pond has had water quality problems for many years and all the contributors to that pollution have worked to clean up the pond and the river. Conditions have improved significantly but the pond still does not meet state water quality standards.

The purpose of these public meetings is two fold:

- 1) To provide information for the public about the data, issues, and the process involved in developing a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for Gulf Island Pond. A TMDL is a plan of action for cleanup so after the plan is put into place the waters will meet state standards. The plan typically involves reductions of point and/or non-point sources of pollution.
- 2) To gather public comment. The DEP will use this advice as it develops the TMDL, which will be completed June 2005. The TMDL will include setting limits on the waste discharge licenses for the mills and municipalities.

The meetings will start at 5 PM with an information fair. DEP will have information and staff available to answer questions and review information and we've provided opportunities for all stakeholders to have information or staff available to answer questions or provide information. Shortly after 6 PM, the meeting will change over to receiving public comment until the meeting ends around 8 PM.

The Department has posted information on current conditions in the river, present discharges of phosphorous, and status of algae blooms on their website. The public is encouraged to review this information prior to the meeting. <http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/topic/gip/>

For additional information, you may contact Andrew Fisk, Bureau Director, by telephone at (207) 287-7383 or by e-mail at andrew.c.fisk@maine.gov